

Nominations for County Committee Election Due Aug. 1

July 25, 2006 — Farm Service Agency county committees across Missouri are seeking interested farmers and ranchers to serve as candidates for the local county committee election to be held this fall. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the Farm Service Agency county offices by close of business on Aug. 1.

Farmers and ranchers can nominate themselves or any other producer to run for a seat on the committee.

FSA county committees make decisions on commodity price support loans, conservation programs, disaster programs, employing county executive directors and other significant agricultural issues.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility requirements. For example, the person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by the agency, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area in which the person is a candidate. A complete list of eligibility requirements is posted online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/cocelig06.htm.

The locally elected committees are responsible for making national farm programs fit the needs and situations faced by local farmers and ranchers and bring local expertise and knowledge to USDA's daily delivery of programs and services.

Eligible voters may circulate or sign nomination petitions for as many candidates as they choose, including themselves. Also, organizations representing minorities and women farmers or ranchers are encouraged to nominate candidates. The deadline for submitting nominations to local county offices is Aug. 1.

Nomination forms are available at the FSA county office and online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections.

For details, contact the staff of the local FSA office.